

Report of:	Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Victoria Mason
Telephone No:	4439
Portfolio Leader:	Leader of the Council
Key Decision:	
Report Track:	

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
7 NOVEMBER 2012
GRANTING THE FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE
REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the granting of the honorary Freedom of Entry to the Staffordshire Regimental Association.
- 1.2 To consider a request for a supplementary estimate and budget required to host a celebratory event to mark the occasion.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council agree that the Freedom of Entry into the District on Ceremonial occasions be conferred upon the Staffordshire Regimental Association in the following form and the same be illuminated in scroll form and present to the Staffordshire Regimental Association.

“To the Deputy Colonel of 3 Mercian (Staffords), Colonel JK Tanner OBE,
Chairman of The Staffordshire Regimental Association

We the Chairman and Councillors of the District of Cannock Chase in the County of Staffordshire, in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, being desirous of recognising the association between the Army and the District and wishing to foster and enhance the close ties and relations with the District,

Do by these presents confer upon the Staffordshire Regimental Association the Freedom of Entry into the District on Ceremonial Occasions.

The Common Seal of the Council of the District of Cannock Chase was hereunto Affixed the day of two thousand and twelve”.

- 2.2 That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Freedom Scroll.

- 2.3 That Council having determined the nature of the celebratory event for granting the Freedom of the District to the Mercian Regiment, that Council agree the celebratory event, be a joint reception with both the Regimental Association and Mercian Regiment in attendance.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 There are no existing resources to implement this proposal; Council would therefore have to determine a supplementary estimate to support the implementation of a celebratory event.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 These proposals contribute to the promotion of a strong, healthy and just society as identified in the Cannock Chase Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2020.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 a Principal Council may, by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the Council specifically convened for the purpose, confer the award of the Honorary Freedom of Entry on current serving uniformed organisations (usually, but not exclusively, the military) which have rendered conspicuous service and which are associated with the District.
- 5.2 Freedom of Entry traditionally grants organisations the “freedom to march through the streets of the District with bayonets, fixed drums beating and colours flying”. This does not carry any rights or responsibilities but is the most honourable distinction that a District Council can bestow.
- 5.3 A request for Council to consider bestowing the Freedom of Entry has been received for the Staffordshire Regimental Association which comprises both serving and veterans of the Staffordshire Regiment (Staffords) and their close family and friends and has a long history of service to our country and our local communities.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

The cost of hosting a joint celebratory event with the award of the Freedom to the Mercian Regiment the event, will be determined by Council, and unless numbers of guests is increased will be at no additional cost to that supplementary estimate agreed.

Should Council determine they wish to host a separate celebratory event, costs associated are detailed at Annex 1 and associated costs shall also have to be met.

The cost of commissioning the design and production of a hand decorated Velum scroll and casket will need to be met and will be between £1500-£2000 dependent on wording and decoration.

There will also be a cost for inscription on the Wooden Freedom Board at a cost between £150 – £200.

There is currently no provision in the Budget for this expenditure and a supplementary estimate will be required.

6.2 Legal

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to admit as honorary freemen or freewomen of the District persons of distinction and persons who have rendered eminent service to the district. There is also a power in that section to expend reasonable sums on resending an address or a casket containing an address to the recipient. The power has to be exercised by resolution of the Council. The resolution must be passed at a special meeting of the Council called for that purpose by a majority of at least 2/3 of the members voting on it. The granting of the Freedom of the District to military and other organisations as well as individuals is commonly done under this power. The granting of the Freedom of the District does not confer any rights on the organisation or individual.

6.3 Human Resources

The proposals in this report will involve significant commitment of staffing resources to organise, administer and promote the award in addition to the direct financial costs of delivery depending on the scope of the celebratory event. Careful consideration will need to be given as to whether this can be absorbed into existing staffing provision or whether additional staffing resource is required. Whilst not explicitly stated presumably the bulk of the promotion and administration of this award will fall to the Executive and Civic Support team, but potentially there may be additional workload for the legal team, and finance team, Chief Executive's office and Members Services arising from this proposal which is not currently programmed into current work plans.

At the present time it is unclear whether the assimilation of this additional work will impact on the grading of any specific posts but this is a possibility.

6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

There are community safety implications in respect of any public event or 'freedom march' held in relation to this proposal. Part two of the Public Order Act 1986 sets out the requirement to give advance notice to the police of any public procession; the notice must specify the intended date and time of the procession together with the proposed route and contact details of the

organiser. The police can impose conditions and these may or may have a cost implication. There may also be implications in respect of noise-related nuisance and/or highways obstruction.

6.5 Human Rights Act

There are no identified Human Rights Act Implications.

6.6 Data Protection

There are no identified Data Protection Act Implications.

6.7 Risk Management

There are some risks in terms of financial and officer capacity depending on the scope of the celebratory event but these will be considered in the context of organising each individual event.

6.8 Equality & Diversity

There are no identified implications as result of this report.

6.9 Best Value

None

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1 Cost Associated with granting the award of Freedom of Entry and Celebratory Event

Previous Consideration
CABINET – FREEDOM OF DISTRICT / FREEDOM OF ENTRY 19 JULY 2012
COUNCIL – AGENDA, RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET 8 AUGUST 2012

Background Papers

APPENDIX 1

**Freedom of the District
The Staffordshire Regimental Association**

Options for Celebratory Event

	OPTION A	OPTION B
	Small Ceremony Max 120 people	Max of 150 people
	Invitees:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of the Council & Consort (x2) • Vice Chairman & Consort (x2) • Elected Members (not inc. guest)(x39) • Chief Executive (x1) • Corporate Director (x1) • (Head of Regiment and/or representative and some regimental officers) 	Invitees:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of the Council & Consort (x2) • Vice Chairman & Consort (x2) • Elected Members (not inc. guest)(x39) • Chief Executive (x1) • Corporate Director (x1) • Civic Dignitaries (to inc. Neighbouring Authorities, Parish & Town Councils) (x44) • Lord Lieutenant (x2) • High Sheriff (x2) • Member of Parliament (x2) • (Head of Regiment and/or representative and some regimental officers) (x55) • Vicar hosting ceremony(x2)
March		
Road Closure Order (An application has to be submitted at least 1 calendar month prior to the event taking place)	£117	£117
Design /Print/Marketing		
Invitations and all associated stationary	£200	£250
Outdoor promotional banners x3 (5ft x 2ft)	£50	£50
Promotional posters	£35	£35
Social Media	Free	Free
	*Officer Time	*Officer Time
Press	Free	Free
	*Officer Time	*Officer Time
Reception		
Venue	Bar end of the ballroom N/A	Ballroom N/A
Finger Buffet £21.50 per head	£2,580	£3,335

ITEM NO. 4.6

inclusive of		
Table Wine	£224	£ 272
Drinks/Refreshments	Bar facility (pay for own)	Bar facility (pay for own)
Table & Chair Hire	N/A	N/A
Licence to serve/sell Alcohol - An application must be made at least 10 working days in advance of the date of the event	N/A	N/A
Entertainment	N/A	£500
Table decorations	£240	£360
Total Cost		
	£3,446	£4,919

**All prices included in the table above are approximate and cannot be determined exactly until numbers of attendees are confirmed.*